



House of Representatives

File No. 750

General Assembly

January Session, 2005

(Reprint of File No. 364)

House Bill No. 6594
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 13, 2005

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESIDENT SERVICE COORDINATORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 8-114d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
4 shall award grants-in-aid to housing authorities, municipal developers
5 and nonprofit corporations operating elderly housing projects
6 pursuant to this part [(1)] to hire resident services coordinators to (1)
7 facilitate conflict resolution between residents, including between
8 seniors and younger residents, (2) establish and maintain relationships
9 with community service providers and link residents to appropriate
10 community services, (3) act as a liaison to assist in problem solving, (4)
11 assist residents of such housing to maintain an independent living
12 status, [(2) to] (5) assess the individual needs of residents of such
13 housing for the purpose of establishing and maintaining support
14 services, [(3) to] (6) provide orientation services to new residents and
15 maintain regular contact with residents of such housing, [(4) to] (7)

16 monitor the delivery of support services to residents of such housing,
 17 [(5) to] (8) organize resident activities and meetings that promote
 18 socialization among all residents, and (9) advocate changes in services
 19 sought or required by residents of such housing. [, and (6) to provide
 20 mediation and conflict resolution services.] The commissioner shall
 21 award grants-in-aid based on demonstration of need and availability
 22 of matching funds. A joint application made by more than one housing
 23 authority, municipal developer or nonprofit corporation shall have the
 24 same preference as an application made by one housing authority,
 25 municipal developer or nonprofit corporation.

26 (b) The employment of resident services coordinators by a housing
 27 authority, municipal developer or nonprofit corporation operating
 28 elderly housing projects pursuant to this part shall be considered an
 29 allowable expense.

30 (c) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development
 31 may convene monthly meetings of the resident services coordinators
 32 for in-service training and information sharing. Training topics shall
 33 include, but not be limited to, the health care needs of seniors and
 34 persons with disabilities, mediation and conflict resolution, and local
 35 and regional service resources.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2005	8-114d

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to convene monthly meetings of resident service coordinators (rsc's) for in service training and information sharing. Since this provision is discretionary, it is anticipated that the additional duties would be undertaken when and if resources permit. It is anticipated that DECD will need an additional \$25,000 per year for trainers and supplies as well as divert ¼ of an Economic and Community Development specialist away from current duties or require additional resources of approximately \$15,000 per year to convene these meetings.

The changes in the bill could lead to additional housing authorities hiring rsc's. Based on a DECD survey it is estimated that 11 additional housing authorities would choose to do so. It is unclear at this time who would ultimately incur the costs for the additional rsc's.

House "A" made the monthly meetings discretionary instead of mandatory, making the need for additional funds discretionary.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6594 (as amended by House "A")*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING AND RESPONSIBILITIES
OF RESIDENT SERVICE COORDINATORS****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands and redefines the responsibilities of resident service coordinators (RSCs). By law, RSCs assist residents of state-assisted elderly housing projects. The bill allows the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to convene monthly in-service training and information sharing meetings for RSCs. Training topics must include information on the health care needs of seniors and people with disabilities, mediation and conflict resolution, and local and regional service resources.

*House Amendment "A" allows the DECD commissioner to convene, instead of requiring him to arrange, monthly in-service training and information sharing meetings for RSCs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

RSC DUTIES

The bill adds to RSCs' responsibilities the requirement that they (1) organize meetings and plan activities to promote socialization among residents; (2) provide orientation services to new residents; and (3) establish and maintain relationships with community service providers, including linking residents to appropriate services.

The bill redefines RSCs' responsibilities for conflict mediation and resolution by specifying that they must (1) facilitate conflict resolution between residents, including between elderly and younger residents, and (2) act as liaisons to assist in problem solving.

BACKGROUND***State-Assisted Elderly Housing Developments***

By law, those who qualify to live in state-assisted elderly housing are low-income people who (1) are age 62 and older and (2) age 61 or younger and certified by the Social Security Board or any other federal board or agency as totally disabled (CGS § 8-113a).

Legislative History

On April 22, the House referred the bill (File 364) to the Appropriations Committee. The committee reported it favorably on May 2.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Housing

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 11 Nay 0

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 18 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 44 Nay 0